MILL
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BIG SPIRITS COMICS

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MILL

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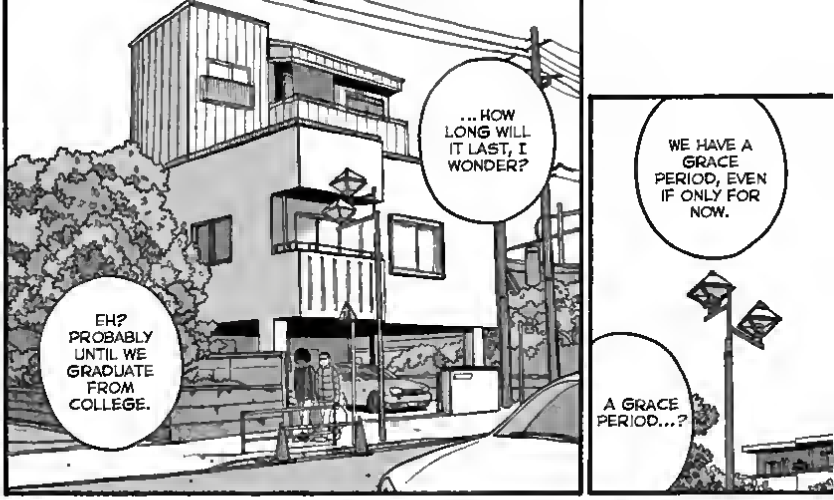
手原和憲

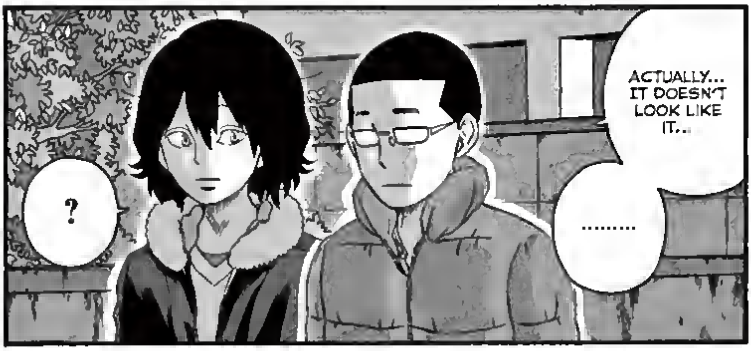
Tahara Kazunori

SCANLATION BY: RPAPO

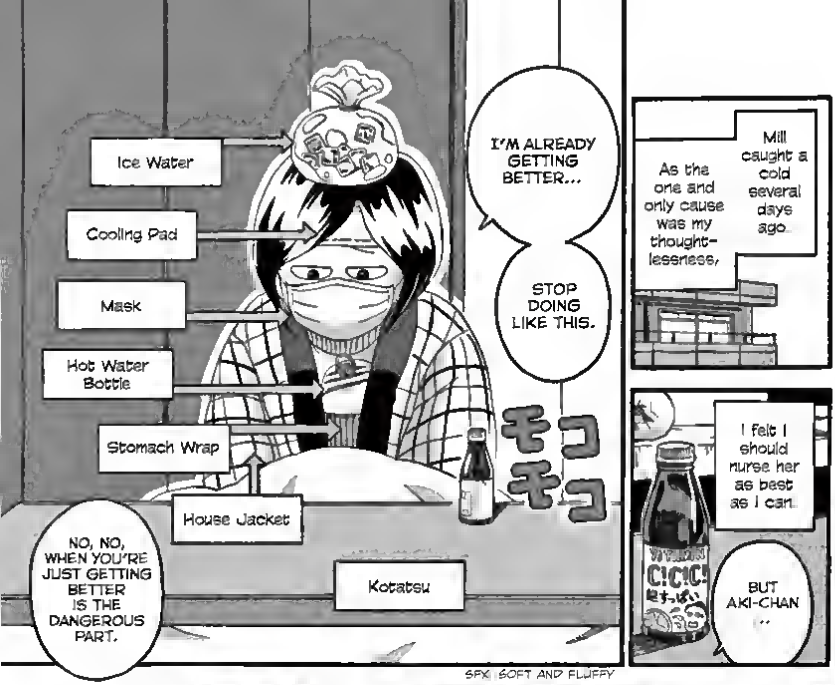
MILL

UGGH...
HEAVY.
I MIGHT HAVE BOUGHT TOO MUCH...
HM?
Look over there, hey!!
Heey, you got me again!
To the telephone pole!
POOR KID...
Isn't this my fourth time?
YOU KNOW WHAT, AKI? IF YOU COMPARE YOURSELF TO HIM, YOUR HEAVY LOAD SEEMS LIKE NOTHING.
EH!? THERE'S A VOICE LIKE THE HERMIT ON THE MOUNTAIN COMING FROM SOMEWHERE...
AH. SINCE I JUST GOT UP,
I'M OFF TO GET SOME RAMEN.
...IT'S ALREADY EARLY EVENING.
...OH, IT'S HARUOMI!?
OUT SHOPPING?
YEAH. AND YOU?
EVEN THOUGH THE WORLD MAY COME TO AN END ONE DAY,
YOU'LL ONLY JUST BE STARTING OFF...
HAHA... AIN'T IT THE TRUTH. WELL, THAT'S OKAY.


...HOW LONG WILL IT LAST, I WONDER?
EH? PROBABLY UNTIL WE GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE.
WE HAVE A GRACE PERIOD, EVEN IF ONLY FOR NOW.
A GRACE PERIOD...?

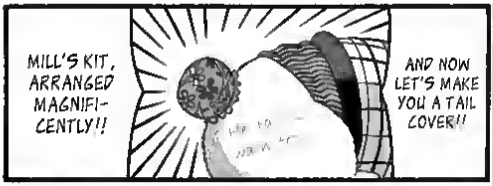

?
ACTUALLY... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT..
.....

EH!? IS SHE ALL RIGHT!?
MILL'S COLD IS DRAGGING ON...
BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU SHOPPING?
OH, OHH...
SHE'S OKAY, SHE'S OKAY. WELL, SEE YOU THIS EVENING AT WORK.


Ice Water
Cooling Pad
Mask
Hot Water Bottle
Stomach Wrap
House Jacket
Kotatsu
モコモコ
I'M ALREADY GETTING BETTER...
STOP DOING LIKE THIS.
NO, NO, WHEN YOU'RE JUST GETTING BETTER IS THE DANGEROUS PART.
As the one and only cause was my thoughtlessness.
Mill caught a cold several days ago.
I felt I should nurse her as best as I can.
BUT AKI-CHAN...

SFX: SOFT AND FLUFFY

POOF...


MILL'S KIT, ARRANGED MAGNIFICENTLY!!
AND NOW LET'S MAKE YOU A TAIL COVER!!

ALL RIGHT, IT'S PERFECT!!
I REALLY HAD TO WORK TO MAKE THE MASK SMALL, BUT IT FIT YOU PERFECTLY!!

EH? YOU DON'T THINK SO...?
ISN'T THIS NEAT, MILL...?

WELL, WHATEVER. ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO BE AT WORK REAL SOON.
GO BACK TO BEING A CAT AND GET SOME REST.
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE FEELING SICK,

I THOUGHT IT WAS NICE THOUGH ...
ENOUGH, AKI-CHAN...

EH.....
GET AHOLD OF ME WITH YOUR CELL-PHONE.
THE CELL-PHONE...? I STILL CAN'T USE IT VERY WELL
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT THE GUY TOLD YOU?
OR RATHER, WHERE DO YOU USUALLY PUT IT...?
WHAT THE!?
RIGHT NOW IT'S OVER THERE.
Locked Tight
Open!
Do Not
Sealed
YEAH... WHEN I LAST LOOKED...
WHAT... WHAT'S THIS, PANDORA'S BOX...!?
HUH!?
There was a light flashing
FLASH FLASH
?.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....?
FLASH
FLASH

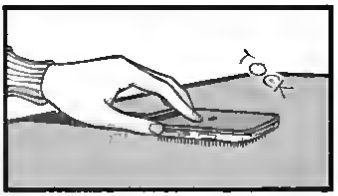
How could that happen!?
THAT WON'T HAPPEN!!
WILL BE TURNED INTO OLD MEN AND WOMEN...
IF WE OPEN IT, THERE'LL BE A PUFF OF SMOKE AND THEN WE
T/N: SEE THE TALE OF URASHIMA TAROU?
OR RATHER MILL, AREN'T YOU ALREADY A GRAN...
COUGH COUGH
No way No way
THIS IS SCARY...
THAT PERILOUS LIGHT... IT ABSOLUTELY COULD NOT BE OPENED.
THERE, IT'S BACK TO WAITING.
THE SHOP-KEEP-ER
SO, WHO WAS IT FROM?
AKI-CHAN, HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
OH, SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS DOING?
ANYWAY, IT'S HOW TELEPHONES LET YOU KNOW MAIL HAS ARRIVED.
I'm open-ing it
WHO'S THIS "A-O-KA-MI-SAN"...
Blue Hair? Blue God?
OH, THAT'S...
001 AAKI-CHAN
002 AOKAMI-SAN
003 AHANA-CHAN
004 AHARUMI-SAN
005 A CLUBROOM
WHA... WHAT'S WITH THIS NOTHING BUT "A"...?
LET ME HAVE A LOOK.. HUH?
YOU MUST'VE SET UP YOUR ADDRESS BOOK EARLIER.

JUST BY PUTTING AN "A" FIRST, THEN MIRACULOUSLY,
IT ALL COMES OUT ON ONE PAGE~~~!
THE ADDRESS BOOK IS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER. SO,
とくいげ
SFX: TRIUMPHANT
WHY DID YOU ATTACH AN "A" TO THE START OF ALL OF THEM..?
IT'S THE SHOPKEEPER!!
もりの
気合い
FUFUFU... THAT'S NOT IT~~~
HOO... I SEE... BUT,
IT'S NO GOOD!! I CAN'T COMPONE IT!!
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!!
"AK!" ALWAYS WENT IN "A"...
HMPH OLD FOLK HAVE MORE TROUBLE WITH CELL PHONES THAN YOU'D USUALLY EXPECT
But I can use it my own way, can't I?
So yeah,
CHARARU~
OH, A CALL'S COME IN!!
EH... A RING-TONE!?
YEP. HANA-CHAN GAVE IT TO ME.
SHOPKEEPER
CHARARI~ CHARARA~ (AN ENKA INTRO)
it seemed to me
she was far from mastering it,
HM?

BIG ENKA
どん演歌
CHARA~N
You won't give up on me anymore~~
ANYMORE~~
THIS IS NICE!! LET'S SING TOGETHER!!
NO, IT'S NOT KARAOKE, SO...
HEY, HURRY UP AND ANSWER!!
A woman's~~~ memories~~~
MEMORIES~~~
HEY YOU!
YOU'RE SLOW PICKING UP!!
LOOK, YOU GOT HER MAD
YES, HELLO...
IT WAS FUN SINGING ALONG, BUT...
I'M OFF TO WORK.
So, how're you doing?
WELL THEN...
YES, I'M GETTING BETTER IN GENERAL...

SFX: CLOSE
パタン
Well, take it easy.
YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH... YES... YES, SEE YOU.

...I GUESS I FEEL GUILTY.
HE'S GOTTEN REALLY BUSY.
GOING BACK AND FORTH TO THE VET, AND GOING TO WORK TOO...


TOCK

AKI-CHAN'S BEEN DOING THE COOKING AND CLEANING FOR ME.
WELL... WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HM... CAN I NOT GET BETTER QUICKER?
WHY DON'T I RETURN TO BEING A CAT AND REST...?

SFX: BUSY BUSY
.....
せっせ
せっせ

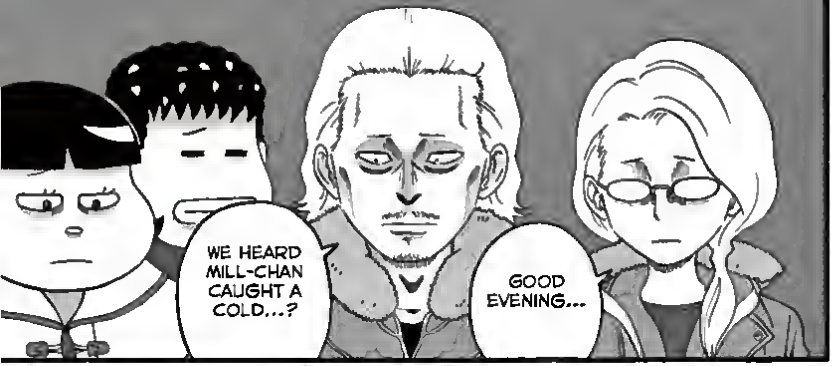
YOU'RE STOCKING SHELVES?
KROL

HM?
HEY, AKI...
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN WORKING SHIFTS LIKE CRAZY LATELY?

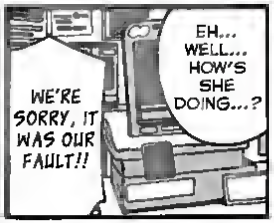
EVEN SO, WORKING EVEN LATE INTO THE NIGHT?
Shall we take the medicine a bit longer?
AND WE HAVE NO INSURANCE FOR THE ANIMAL HOSPITAL...
AH, WITH MILL AND THE CLINIC, I'VE SPENT A LOT OF MONEY.

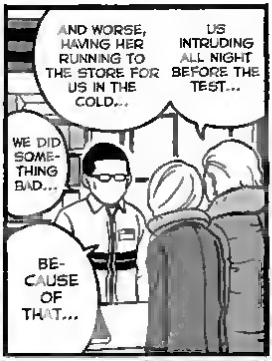
SFX: SWISH
EUSEBIO
MODERA-TION...
AH, PLEASE COME IN...

RUNNING YOURSELF INTO THE GROUND WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.
...WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT.


WE HEARD MILL-CHAN CAUGHT A COLD...?
GOOD EVENING...

(1) FROM THE SOUTH COUNTRY, A FRUIT PLATTER!!
PLEASE ACCEPT THESE THINGS TO HELP HER GET BETTER!!
(3) AND THEN, AN AWAMORI EGG-NOG SET!!
(2) SALTED SALMON!!
WHAT A POWERFUL PUNCH!!

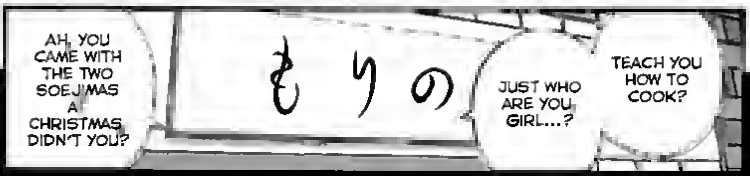

WE'RE SORRY, IT WAS OUR FAULT!!
EH... WELL... HOW'S SHE DOING...?


AND WORSE, HAVING HER RUNNING TO THE STORE FOR US IN THE COLD...
US INTRUDING ALL NIGHT BEFORE THE TEST...
WE DID SOME-THING BAD...
BE-CAUSE OF THAT...

?
IT'S SURE BUSY HERE...

TAKE IT EASY!!
YOU'LL MAKE THE STORE RUN OUT!!
COUGH DROPS
MUSCAT FLAVOR
OH, ME TOO!! COUGH DROPS WAIT, I'M BUYING THEM NOW!!

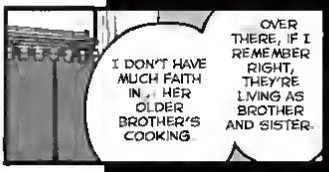
GOOD EVENING...
...OH? IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU COME TO A STORE LIKE THIS, EH?
A FEW DAYS AGO, THIS GIRL CAME TO MY SHOP...
A BREAKUP!?
CONCERT
SUPER WOOPER LOOPER
EXCUSE US.

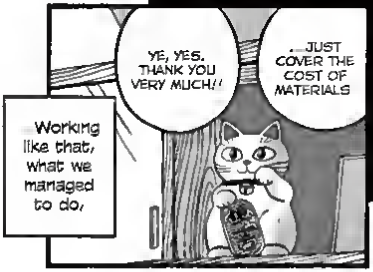

AH, YOU CAME WITH THE TWO SOEJIMAS A CHRISTMAS, DIDN'T YOU?
もりの
JUST WHO ARE YOU, GIRL...?
TEACH YOU HOW TO COOK?

I'VE, NEVER COOKED...

I'D LIKE TO MAKE SOMETHING NUTRITIOUS FOR HER...
YES... AND IT SEEMS MILL-SAN HAS CAUGHT A COLD SO

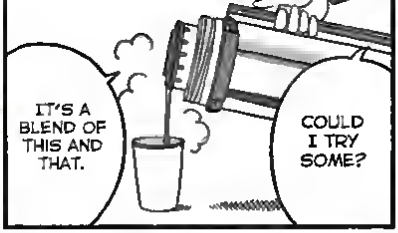
T/N: OYA KO-DON = PARENT AND CHILD SOUP. IN THIS CASE, THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG

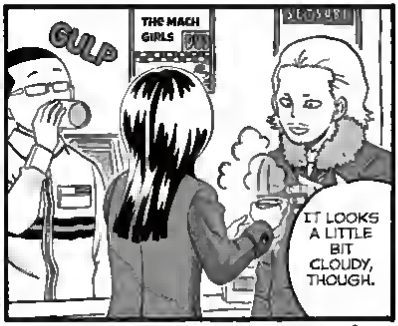




THAT WAS HER PLAN FROM THE VERY START...
WE ACCIDENTALLY MADE A STORE-SIZED PORTION, YOU SEE...
IT'S OKAY. WE CAN SELL WHATEVER'S LEFT OVER IN THE SHOP.

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, AKI?


COULD I TRY SOME?
IT'S A BLEND OF THIS AND THAT.

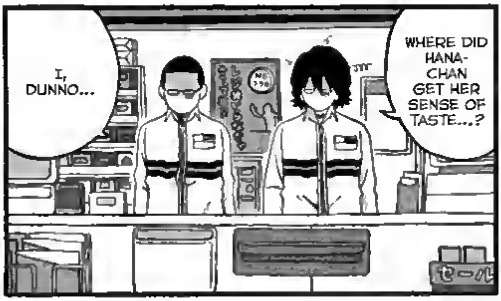

GULP
THE MACH GIRLS
IT LOOKS A LITTLE BIT CLOUDY, THOUGH.

AS OFTEN HAPPENS WITH DICEY COOKING,
IT'S A 'WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO' MOMENT!!
NOBODY TOUCH...

NOOOO ...!!
IT'S TOO LATE!!

Don't dri
AKI...!?
NO WAY!!

EH... GRASS I PICKED IN THE MOUNTAINS BEHIND THE COLLEGE...
DIDN'T IT TASTE GOOD?
'GRASS' ...?
WHAT THE HECK DID YOU PUT IN THERE!?


I, DUNNO...
WHERE DID HANA-CHAN GET HER SENSE OF TASTE...?

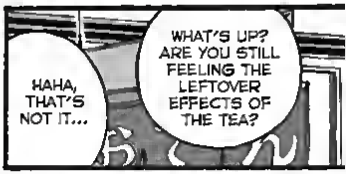
HAA...
I LOST IT THERE...

WHAT'S WRONG?
HM?

HOT HOT
YEAH.
ALL OF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT MILL.
ANYHOW, I REALLY FEEL THANKFUL.

EVERY-BODY...
MILL-CHAN'S A GOOD KID, SO

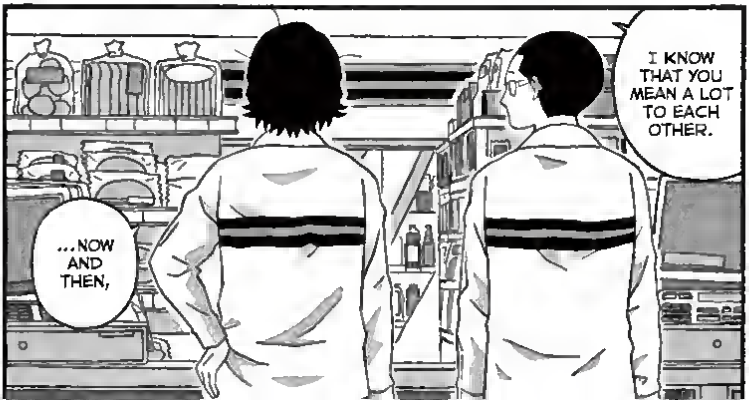
I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED SOONER.
I COULDN'T ...
.....
DIDN'T YOU EVEN TELL ME, "PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MILL"?

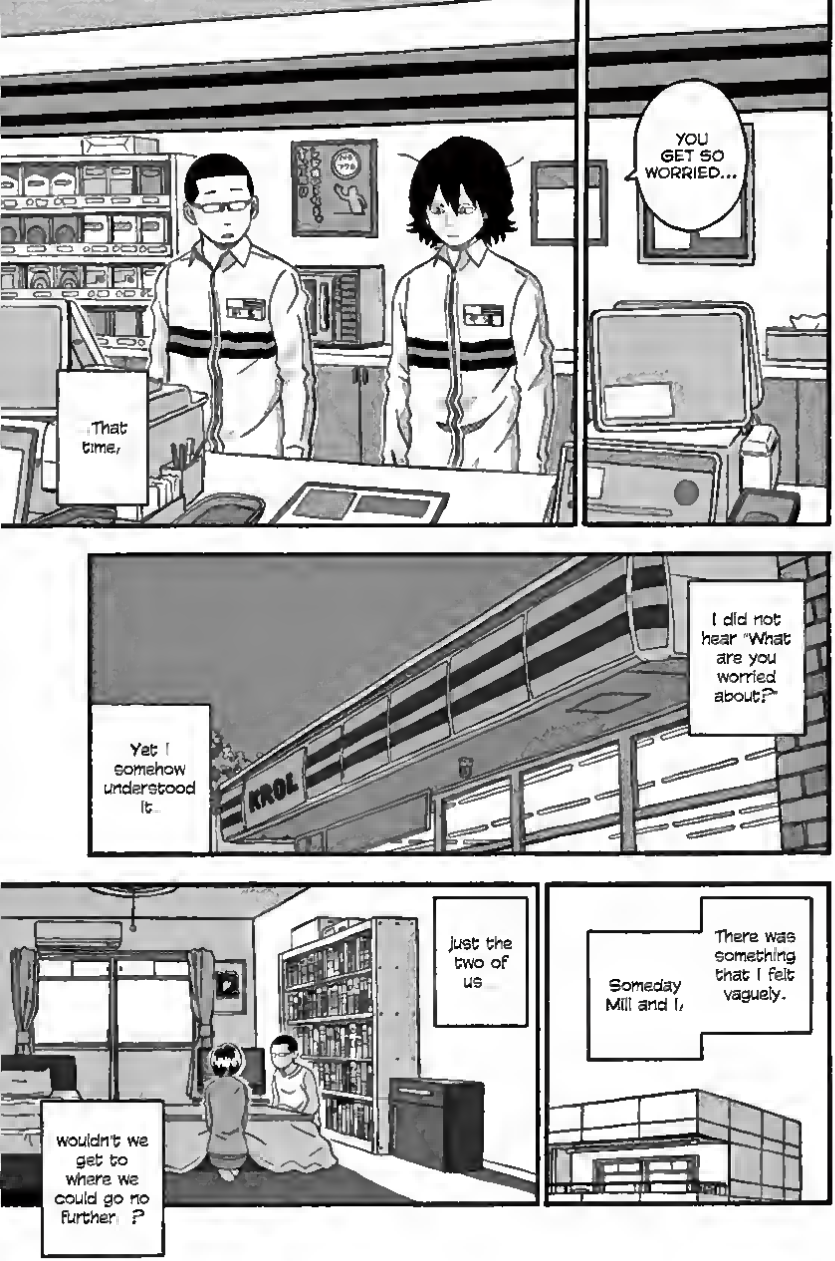

WHAT'S UP? ARE YOU STILL FEELING THE LEFTOVER EFFECTS OF THE TEA?
HAHA, THAT'S NOT IT...

I'M FEELING GUILTY...
EH, WHY?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU ARE LIVING TOGETHER AS BROTHER AND SISTER,
IT COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF REASONS, BUT,

YOU WERE ALREADY DOING PLENTY GOOD.
...WELL, AS FOR ME, FRANKLY...
OH THAT... THAT WASN'T NEEDED.
EH?


I KNOW THAT YOU MEAN A LOT TO EACH OTHER.
...NOW AND THEN,


That time,
YOU GET SO WORRIED...
Yet I somehow understood it...
I did not hear "What are you worried about?"
KROL
wouldn't we get to where we could go no further...?
just the two of us...
Someday Mill and I,
There was something that I felt vaguely.

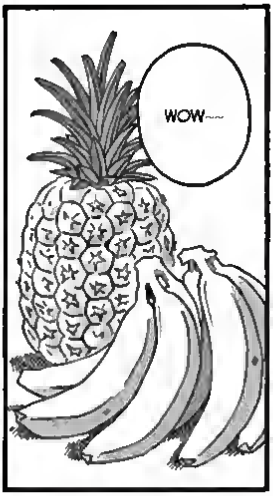
BUT IF YOU COULD HELP ME TO MEET PINK NOSE...
DON'T GO BEGGING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.
IF ANYTHING TROUBLES YOU, TELL ME.
WELL, ANYWAY,
Register Closed
Please use the next one.
WHA---T, YOU AREN'T THINKING OF BORROWING FROM ME, ARE YOU?
EH...?
I'M TAKING OUT THE GARBAGE.
FU-FU-FU, I'M NOT STOPPING UNTIL YOU HELP ME.
SFX WHOOSH
ヒュオオ
オォオォ
COLD!!
YIPES!!
SFX WHAM WHACK
ドガン
ドン
IT'S MY TURN TODAY...
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.

...THANKS.
KROL
The garbage bin is awfully far away
THEY'VE SURE GIVEN US A LOT OF STUFF.
KROL
GOOD WORK.
FOR EVERYBODY ELSE TOO...
AND NOT JUST FOR ME...
BEFORE I KNEW IT MILL
HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY LIFE...

WOBBLE WOBBLE
HUH.
...ARE YOU JUST WAKING UP...?
I'M HOME. HOW'S IT GOING
WITH YOUR COLD, MILL?
STRETCH #2
YEP. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
STRETCH #1
SCRATCH SCRATCH
UP AND AT 'EM!
LIKE THIS.

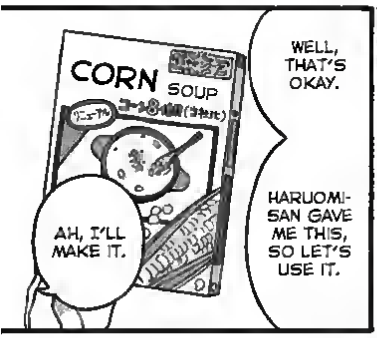
LET'S MAKE DINNER.
I'VE BEEN GIVEN A LOT OF STUFF "FOR MILL."
THAT'S ALL RIGHT I SUPPOSE. YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE BETTER.
WELCOMING ME HOME BY YAWNING...

Hungry Hungry
I WANT TO THANK THEM.
EVEN THIS CHICKEN LIVER MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.
It's a little much, though.

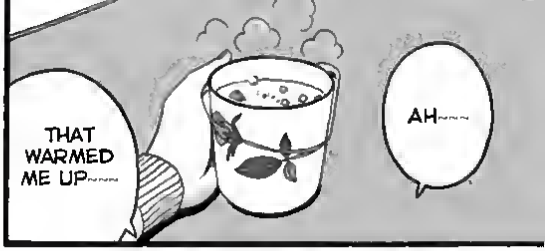

WOW~~

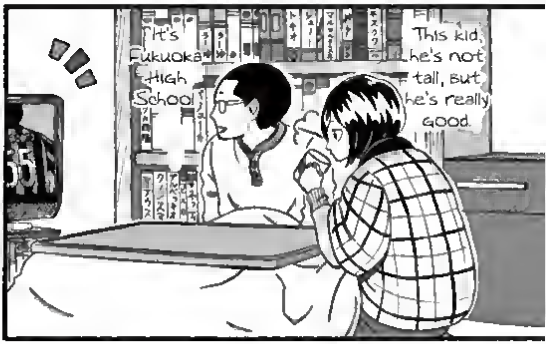
WHY? I WANTED TO DRINK SOME...
IMPOSSI-BLE!! YOU CAN'T DRINK THAT STUFF!!

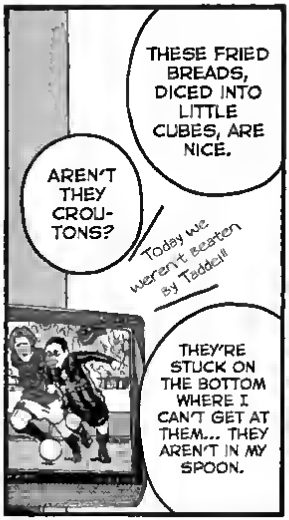
The shopkeeper... how to make chicken liver sweet and salty stew... made a special blend of... to go with it. Please... Hana
AND HANA-CHAN SENT YOU THIS CARD.
HM, SHE MADE TEA TOO?
...THAT'S GONE ALREADY.


CORN SOUP
AH, I'LL MAKE IT.
WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
HARUOMI-SAN GAVE ME THIS, SO LET'S USE IT.

SORRY, I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER IT.
THAT FLAVOR... IT WAS A DEADLY WEAPON... NO, INSANITY...
BAM
WHA... WHAT'S WRONG?






THESE FRIED BREADS, DICED INTO LITTLE CUBES, ARE NICE.
AREN'T THEY CROU-TONS?
Today we weren't beaten by Taddei!!
THEY'RE STUCK ON THE BOTTOM WHERE I CAN'T GET AT THEM... THEY AREN'T IN MY SPOON.

T/N: RODRIGO TADDEI, A BRAZILIAN SOCCER PLAYER

EH~~~ I LIKE THE KOTATSU~~~
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP, SHOULDN'T YOU SLEEP ON A FUTON?
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU.
YES...
I'M GOING TO TIDY UP.

This Week's Weather
CHAMP
I wonder how long "always" will be...
Always...
This modest happiness "always"...